

Serial No. 09/821,787
Amendment Dated: June 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action

REMARKS

The Interview Summary accurately characterizes the discussion at the interview held on June 1, 2004. The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended.

Applicant's undersigned representative pointed out that the basic combination of the Hull and Donohoe (and even Lai et al.) was inappropriate inasmuch as the Hull patent is directed to a plasma tube, not an apparatus (or method) in which the induction coil encircles a workpiece treatment space and a hollow screen body is coaxial to the coil axis and within the treatment space. No workpiece is intended to lie within the Hull plasma tube which is described as being used for high temp spectroscopic studies and preparation of microcrystalline refractory materials. That is, the Hull plasma tube is not related to the type of device claimed in the present application or, for that matter, disclosed in the Donohoe and Lai et al. documents. To the extent there is a treatment space with which the Hull plasma tube is used, that space is downstream of the apparatus shown in Figs. 1, 3, 5 and 6 of the Hull patent.

One of ordinary skill in the art could not have looked to the teachings of Donohoe or Lai et al. to modify the Hull tube without the exercise of hindsight reconstruction. Accordingly, the rejections which are all based upon such combination cannot set forth a prima facie case of obviousness.

Accordingly, early and favorable reconsideration are earnestly solicited.


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If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #08031049809).

Respectfully submitted,

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